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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/963,388	09/27/2001	Joji Mishina	086142-0485	9466

22428 7590 07/09/2003

FOLEY AND LARDNER
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3000 K STREET NW
WASHINGTON, DC 20007

EXAMINER

JILLIONS, JOHN M

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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3654

DATE MAILED: 07/09/2003

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.



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APPLICATION NO./ CONTROL NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR / PATENT IN REEXAMINATION	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.
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EXAMINER

ART UNIT	PAPER
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9

DATE MAILED:

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Commissioner for Patents

John M. Jilkons
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 3654

DETAILED ACTION

Interference

1. The following claim number 1 from U.S. Patent No. 6,367,729 is suggested to applicant under 35 U.S.C. 135(a) for the purposes of an interference:

--A seat belt retractor in which said seat belt retractor comprises: a spool for winding a webbing, and
an emergency locking mechanism including: a ratchet wheel which rotates together with said spool; and a pawl which meshes with said ratchet wheel in response to emergency detection by inertia sensing means, thereby setting said spool into a locked condition via said ratchet wheel, and
a torsion bar is disposed between said spool and said ratchet wheel, one end of said torsion bar being coupled to said spool, another end of said torsion bar being coupled to said ratchet wheel, said torsion bar being subjected to twist deformation to absorb an impact when a force in a drawing direction acts on said webbing in an operating condition of said emergency locking mechanism, and characterized in that
a coupling portion of said torsion bar with respect to said ratchet wheel is formed into a polygonal shape, a polygonal insertion hole into which said polygonal coupling portion is to be fitted is formed in said ratchet, and a rib-like projection is formed on an inner face of said polygonal insertion hole in an axial direction of said torsion bar, said rib-like projection biasing, when said webbing is drawn, said torsion bar in said insertion hole in

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a direction along which said torsion bar rotates, to cause respective faces to be in press contact with each other in the direction.--

The suggested claim must be copied exactly, although other claims may be proposed under 37 CFR 1.605(a).


Applicant is given ONE MONTH or THIRTY DAYS, whichever is longer, from the mailing date of this communication to copy this patent claim. Failure to do so will be considered a concession that the subject matter of this claim is the prior invention of another under 35 U.S.C. 102(g), and thus also prior art under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) (In re Oguie, 517 F.2d 1382, 186 USPQ 227 (CCPA 1975)), but will not result in the abandonment of this application. THE PROVISIONS OF 37 CFR 1.136 DO NOT APPLY TO THE TIME SPECIFIED IN THIS ACTION.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to John M. Jillions whose telephone number is (703) 308-2685. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 9:15 - 5:45.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Kathy Matecki can be reached on (703) 308-2688. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are (703) 872-9326 for regular communications and (703) 872-9327 for After Final communications.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 308-1113.

7/7/03


JOHN M. JILLIONS
PRIMARY EXAMINER